

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205675

PASS TO GEO A DALLEY THROUGH WILLIAM HALLMAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 7319 ACTION SECSTATE INFO SANTIAGO
USUN NY DATED AUG 26:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 7319

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, CI

SUBJ: AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON CHILE

1. MISSOFF WAS TOLD IN CONFIDENCE THAT DURING CURRENT HEARINGS ON CHILE ONE WITNESS TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND TORTURED FOLLOWING DESTRUCTION OF THE LAS VAGAS VIADUCT IN OR NEAR VALPARAISO, CHILE. WITNESS CONCLUDED HIS TESTIMONY BY NOTING THAT THE PERSON WHO PROSECUTED HIM AND WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS TORTURE WAS LUIS WINTER, PRESENTLY A COUNSELOR IN THE CHILE MISSION IN GENEVA.

2. CHILEAN AMBASSADOR AND WINTER DENIED ALLEGATIONS, IN MEETING WITH WG. ALTHOUGH WINTER ADMITTED BEING PROSECUTOR IN VALPARAISO DURING TIME WITNESS WAS ARRESTED, HE CONTENDED THAT HE DIDN'T REMEMBER WITNESS AND DENIED THAT HE HAD ORDERED
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TORTURE.

3. IN CONFRONTATION WITH CHILEAN OFFICIALS BEFORE THE WORKING GROUP (AUGUST 24), WITNESS RECALLED THAT HE HAD BEEN A STUDENT OF WINTER'S AT VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY. WHEN WINTER DENIED KNOWING HIM AS A STUDENT, WITNESS EXPRESSED DISBELIEF SINCE HE HAD BEEN ONE OF THE EIGHT LEADING ACTIVIST STUDENTS AT THE

UNIVERSITY.

4. DURING CONFRONTATION WITNESS AGAIN STATED THAT WINTER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS TORTURE. ACCORDING TO WITNESS, THERE WERE QUESTIONS TO WHICH WINTER WANTED AFFIRMATIVE ANSWERS, WHEN WITNESS REPLIED NEGATIVELY WINTER ORDERED THAT HE BE TAKEN TO THE ROOM WHERE HE WAS TORTURED.

5. WINTER HAS BEEN ASSIGNED IN GENEVA FOR LESS THAN A YEAR. A POLITE AND COURTEOUS MAN, IT APPEARS THAT HIS MAJOR ASSIGNMENT IS TO DEFEND CHILE AGAINST ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE IN VARIOUS UN FORA.

6. WG WAS NOT ABLE TO DECIDE HOW THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE USED. CHAIRMAN ALLANA (PAKISTAN) WANTED TESTIMONY GIVEN TO PRESS BUT SECT VIEW THAT SITUATION BE EXPLORED IN DEPTH AT JANUARY SESSION OF WG PREVAILED AND MATTER IS NOW TEMPORARILY SHELVED.VANDEN HEUVEL UNQTE VANCE

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